

**Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program
Application for Diamond Alkali Superfund Site
Kluesner suggested edits Jan 4 , 2011**

Section 1. Group Qualifications

A. Group Eligibility

Explain how your group was formed and the history of your group's involvement at the site.

The Passaic River Coalition (PRC) was founded over forty years ago as a non-profit watershed association to provide assistance and stewardship for the preservation and protection of the water resources of the Passaic River Watershed. A primary goal of the PRC is to improve water quality by reducing point and nonpoint source pollution of the waters of the Passaic River, which was identified in the early 1970s as one of the nation's most polluted rivers. Ever since the PRC was founded it has been working with government agencies and citizens in the region to help clean up the waters and sediments of the Passaic River. The Passaic River Restoration Project, begun in 1982 in the lower Passaic is creating new parks and bringing people back to the waterfront. Since work was started on developing cleanup strategies for the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site in the early 1990s, the PRC has been involved with the Citizens Advisory Groups, and has been working in partnership with other citizen groups in the lower Passaic River region. This collaborative effort will continue throughout this project.

B. Responsibility Requirements

B.1. Administrative and Management Capabilities

The PRC operates under the direction of a Board of Directors. The By-laws of the PRC are attached. For the purposes of this project Ella F. Filippone will serve as Executive Administrator, and will direct the efforts of the Technical Advisor. She will receive guidance from the Citizens Advisory Group. Financial management of the grant will be the responsibility of the finance manager of the PRC. Ultimate responsibility for the management of this project resides with the PRC Board of Directors.

B.2. Resources for Project Completion

What resources are available to your group to help complete the TAG project?

For over forty years the PRC has been successfully raising funds through contributions and grants to carry out projects such as this TAG project. It will continue to utilize the resources available to it to assist in efforts whose objective is to clean up the pollution of the lower Passaic River, which is the purpose of this TAG project.

B.3. Performance Records

The PRC has successfully completed many projects in the past for EPA, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Essex, Bergen, Passaic, and Morris Counties, other government agencies, and other groups, such as the Victoria Foundation and the Dodge Foundation. The PRC has been involved as a lead agency in watershed management planning for the Passaic River Basin, and has been responsible for education and outreach efforts in the watershed.

B.4. Accounting and Auditing Procedures

Recordkeeping and financial accountability related to the grant will be the responsibility of the finance manager of the PRC. The records will be audited by the auditor for the PRC.

B.5. Incorporation

Is your group incorporated specifically for the purpose of addressing problems at this site?

Yes. When the PRC was incorporated in 1970, it was known that there were many pollution problems in the lower Passaic River Basin that needed to be addressed, and it was anticipated that the PRC would play an influential role in helping to clean up the river. The specific environmental problems found at the Diamond Alkali site were not identified until later. The activities of the PRC over the years have facilitated the identification of the problems at this site, its inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) of sites, the studies that have been conducted of the pollution on the site and in the Passaic River, and clean up efforts that have been made to date. The PRC was the only organized group that consistently participated in the deliberations on the dioxin issue. It was also a member of the Governor's Task Force on Dredging, where it continuously urged for a special study on the Passaic River.

B.6. Certifications

Attach copies of certifications.

C. Group Issues and Objectives

C.1. How many members of your group are affected by the site? 300±

C.2. Health, Economic, and Environmental Effects

Describe the ways in which group members and those they represent are affected by contamination at the site, including actual or potential health threats posed to and economic and environmental effects felt by them.

The dominant contaminant released into the environment at the Diamond Alkali Superfund Site was dioxin, one of the deadliest toxics known to man. This contaminant and others have gotten into the sediments and waters of the lower Passaic River below the Dundee Dam, and is having impacts on Newark Bay and the New York Harbor Estuary. The most pernicious health threats are felt by those who would eat sea food taken from the lower Passaic River. The ecological impacts on the health of biota in the Passaic River, Newark Bay and the Harbor are wide-ranging and have many implications for the health of people living in the region. The environmental impacts caused by the contamination of the lower Passaic River lead to economic costs which are borne by millions of people living and working in the region. The members of the group that will carry out this project and those they represent are all negatively affected by the contamination at this site.

C.3. Consolidation/Representation

The group that will carry out this project is ethnically and culturally diverse, and will be representative of the wide diversity of the many people that will be impacted by this project. The Passaic River Community Advisory Group is open to the public and welcomes any participants. PRC has been a member of the Passaic River CAG since its formation in October 2009. PRC has and will continue to use its seat on the CAG to communicate the results of its technical reviews of major site documents and to obtain input from the CAG members on future technical assistance needs of the community.

Section 2. Information Sharing

A. How does your group intend to share information collected with grant funds with the larger

community?

A newsletter will be published as needed and distributed to the Passaic River Community Advisory Group and as many pertinent groups and agencies in the region as possible. Information will also be disseminated on a web-site (Question: PRC's web site and/or the lowerpassaic.org web site). Technical review products will be made available to EPA and the CAG in electronic format upon request.

Section 3. Technical Advisor Work Plan

A. Provide a succinct explanation of the tasks you wish your technical advisor to perform at each stage of the cleanup process; time; products.

Technical Advisor Work Plan Diamond Alkali Superfund Site

Period of Project: January 2011 to September 2012

Tasks related to the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project and Newark Bay Study:

In the two years of since the dioxin sediment hot spot removal project was announced it is anticipated that removal of some of the sediment most highly contaminated with dioxin in the river adjacent to the Diamond Alkali land site will be executed. The second phase of the removal project, which will start in-river excavation in June 2011, involves the potential for disposal of Phase 2 sediments in a Confined Disposal Facility or a Contained Aquatic Disposal cell in Newark Bay or the possible use of other material disposal and treatment options. Further efforts will be made to develop an "Early Action" project in the lower eight miles of the river. A Proposed Plan for the lower eight miles is scheduled for release by EPA to the public for comment in Summer/Fall 2011, and work will continue on a comprehensive study of the lower 17 miles of the Passaic River and of Newark Bay. For each of these projects the Technical Advisor will carry out the following tasks:

- Review and interpret relevant documents;
- Participate in site visits as needed;
- Participate in meetings relevant to the projects, such as the Project Development Team and Community Advisory Group meetings;
- Meet with community groups and affected municipalities to explain technical information;
- Help communicate site-related concerns to EPA;
- Communicate technical and health and safety information to potentially affected and involved communities to the extent feasible and appropriate.

The Technical Advisor will continue to review the existing information available regarding the contamination of sediments in the 17-mile tidal reach of the Passaic River and Newark Bay, potential sources of those contaminants, and potential methods of removing the contaminated sediments, disposal methods and options, and treating sediments for beneficial uses. The Technical Advisor will also evaluate and make recommendations regarding the technical feasibility and potential environmental consequences of various proposals for cleaning up the river and Newark Bay, including the potential risk reductions achieved with various proposed cleanup options.

Time:

About 800 hours of labor by the Technical Advisor, as well as efforts by the Executive Administrator and others, will be needed to work on these tasks during the two years.

Products:

- Reports on project to remove most contaminated sediments from river;
- Reports on Lower 8-Mile ("Early Action") project activities;
- Reports on findings regarding the contamination of sediments in the 17-mile tidal reach of the Passaic River and in Newark Bay, and potential sources of those contaminants;
- Reports regarding technical aspects of alternatives proposed for cleaning up the river;
- Reports on recommendations regarding technical aspects of strategies for cleaning up the lower Passaic River;
- Newsletters and reporting on internet regarding cleaning up the lower Passaic River.
- Electronic format, e.g., compact discs, of requested reports among the list above.

Project Management:

The Technical Advisor will work closely with and receive guidance from the project manager, Ella Filippone, who is the Executive Administrator of the Passaic River Coalition. Financial management of the project will be the responsibility of the Treasurer and the Board of Trustees of the Passaic River Coalition.

Project Budget for Two Year Budget Period:

Federal Share:

<i>Object Class Category</i>		<i>Hours</i>	<i>Rate per Hour</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel	Executive Administrator	100	\$56.00	\$5,600
	Auxiliary Staff	200	\$32.00	\$6,400
Fringe Benefits				\$1,200
Travel				\$0
Equipment				\$0
Supplies	Printing			\$400
	Postage			\$600
Contractual	Technical Advisor	800	\$36.00	\$28,800
Construction				\$0
Other				\$0
Total Direct Charges				\$43,000

Passaic River Coalition Share:

<i>Object Class Category</i>		<i>Hours</i>	<i>Rate per Hour</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel	Project Administrator	150	\$56.00	\$8,400
	Accounting, bookkeeping	60	\$25.00	\$1,500
Fringe Benefits				\$990
Travel				\$0
Equipment				\$0

Supplies	\$0
Contractual	\$0
Construction	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Direct Charges	\$10,890
 Total for Project	 \$53,890